

## **GREENING THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY**

### **Project Overview 2005-2007**

#### **Background**

The enlargement of the European Union (EU) signifies major changes in relation to the EU external borders and external relations. The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), prepared in parallel to the final phases of enlargement, will restructure and refocus EU relations with the new neighbour countries (NC) to the East and South, Euro-Med Partnership countries and Libya.

The European Commission's Communication "Wider Europe" at the end of March 2003 presented the ENP objectives: *"...to share the benefits of the EU's 2004 enlargement with NC in strengthening stability, security and well being for all concerned. It is designed to prevent the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours and to offer them the chance to participate in various EU activities, through greater political, security, economic and cultural co-operation."*

The European Security Strategy, also highlights its importance stating it is the EU's task is to *"...make a particular contribution to stability and good governance in our immediate neighbourhood [and] to promote a ring of well governed countries to the East of the European Union and on the borders of the Mediterranean with whom we can enjoy close and cooperative relations."*

ENP will become operational through jointly agreed Action Plans (AP) covering: political dialogue and reform; trade and measures preparing partners for gradually obtaining a stake in the EU's Internal Market; justice and home affairs; energy, transport, information society, environment and research and innovation; social policy and people-to-people contacts.

From 2007 the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) will support cross border co-operation, regional co-operation between MSs and NCs, and both regional and cross-border co-operation among NCs. The Commission has proposed significant funding increase to approximately €15 billion for the period 2007-2013, as an incentive for economic and political reform within the NCs.

Some Action Plans have been adopted, others remain under negotiation. The proposal by the Commission of the Regulation on the ENPI is under discussion by the Council and the Parliament. The main ENP implementing tools will be defined and put in place during the years 2005-2006.

#### **Environmental Integration**

The preparatory talks on the ENP include environmental integration which should apply to:

- Environmental governance : improve capacity of stakeholders to deal with environment and sustainable development matters;
- National environmental policies and tools on key sectors (energy, transport, etc);
- Implementation of environmental commitments at international and regional level; and
- Implementation of EU international initiatives (e.g. EU Water Initiative, EU Marine Strategy).

Security is also high on the agenda and should incorporate the links between regional conflicts, unsustainable management of natural resources and lack of good governance.

## **The Opportunity**

NC countries contain many important ecoregions under serious threat due to overexploitation of natural resources (water, forests, fisheries, oil and gas) and unsustainable development of economic activities (energy, transportation, over fishing, water infrastructures, tourism, industrial development, etc).

ENP preparatory process and further implementation brings major opportunities to foster civil society participation in countries which have no such tradition and to focus on the link between security, stability, good governance and natural resource management. It also brings the challenge of achieving more coherence among different EU internal policies (environment, trade, agriculture etc) and the implementation and verification of the new policies and instruments for external relations.

In response, WWF and Hbf are working in partnership to develop the ‘**Greening the ENP**’ project.

## **Project Goal**

The project aims to enable civil society participation, promote sustainable development and environmental integration, foster good governance, and project co-operation both between the EU member states and our neighbours, and among them.

## **Project Objectives**

1. To ensure the new EU political and financial framework fully incorporates and ensures proper implementation of measures aiming for sustainable development, environmental protection and public participation;
2. To ensure national and regional support for implementation of environmental governance and programmes as reflected in the Association and Partnership Agreements, Country Action Plans and Programmes.
3. To promote involvement of NC in initiatives supporting environmental protection and sustainable use of energy, freshwater, marine and forest resources.
4. To promote local governance and NGOs’ full participation in the national and regional policy processes.
5. To establish the links between regional conflicts, unsustainable management of natural resources, and lack of good governance.

## **Outcome**

Selected country and regional (transboundary) agreements and implementation programmes include clear objectives and activities addressing the environment, including the protection and sustainable use of natural resources, identified as priority investments by key NGOs.

## **Approach**

The project will combine work at three different levels:

1. Policy development and implementation supported by communication work when appropriate – targeted at EU institutions (the Commission, the Parliament, and the European Council), Member States, NC countries, European and NC public.
2. Assessment of existing policies and instruments alongside environmental threats and possible solutions in order to define specific policy proposals on thematic/regional and national levels -targeted at European Institutions and NC officials.
3. Capacity building to strengthen local institutions – targeted at civil society organisations and NGOs as defined by the assessment undertaken during the inception phase.

## **Outputs**

- ENPI Regulation and its implementing rules (to be adopted in 2006) ensure effective support for sustainable development, environmental protection and democracy, and prevent negative environmental and social impacts. Thematic programmes addressing specific environmental and social challenges are established under the framework of the ENPI.

- Enhanced civil society capacity at the National Level to engage and influence the ENP process and increased public participation in the development and implementation of National Action Plans. Programming Tools (Country Strategy Papers, Indicative Programmes) include clear objectives and activities addressing the environment, security and democracy.
- Environmental Governance at regional and sub-regional level leading to the establishment/reinforcement of NGO Networks that promote regional initiatives and ensure that ENP regional programmes on environment, security and democracy are established and operational.

### Time frame and Budget

The project will be implemented over 2-3 years: an inception period (April-September 2005) will fully assess and define the project activities required to respond to local needs; Phase 1 will focus on influencing the policy process at national, regional and international levels until the ENP becomes operational; Phase 2 tackles policy implementation and a smooth transition to NC ownership.

WWF and Hbf will provide the resources for the inception phase during which they will seek indications of funding and support for the project.

### Existing Capacity and Governance

The project will build on the existing expertise, presences and partnerships of WWF and Hbf in Brussels, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Israel and involve WWF experts on forest, freshwater, marine and energy.

Wider partners will be sought at regional, national and international levels, including a broad network of national NGOs in the relevant NCs, and a representative Steering Group will be established.

### Key Project Activities

Timeline	Key Activities
Inception Phase April-Sep 05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy assessment at regional, national and EU level</li> <li>• Project development including partner identification</li> <li>• Budget development and donor identification</li> </ul>
Phase 1 Influencing policy and capacity building Autumn 05- 2007 (following EU agenda)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public conference and seminar in Brussels for NC partners (to promote debate, highlight NC issues, begin capacity building and promote contacts and dialogue with EC)</li> <li>• Lobbying European institutions on environmental integration and public participation</li> <li>• Sectorial Assessments (forest, freshwater, marine and energy) for lobbying EU</li> <li>• National Assessments (environment and civil society participation, key environmental priorities, governance, security and sustainable development) for national lobbying</li> <li>• Capacity build NC communication, advocacy and lobbying skills (engage civil society)</li> <li>• European Parliament hearing prior to adoption of ENP regulation where NC partners will present their results and receive further capacity building/dialogue opportunities</li> <li>• Consolidate NC capacity for implementation of Action Plans: feedback to NGO network, inform general public and promote ongoing dialogue with national administrations</li> <li>• Project evaluation and reporting</li> </ul>
Phase 2 Implementation and transition to NC ownership (and mainstream funding into ENPI) 2007 -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 month assessment of ENP implementation, work done to date, local capacity and involvement in each NC</li> <li>• Development (with NC partners) of activities for final phase, to include: regular meetings with NC administration and relevant EU contacts, local NGO seminars and regional consultation</li> <li>• Manage transition to ensure policy implementation and ongoing policy work is fully integrated into the role of local organisations, funded through the ENPI</li> </ul>

A full project concept or further information is available from Mandy Thomas, Programme Development Officer, WWF International: email [mthomas@wwfint.org](mailto:mthomas@wwfint.org) Tel +41 22 364 9231